



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Renewing study could delay other, doable road projects...

COUNCIL CHOOSES ACTION OVER TALK IN REJECTING ANOTHER ICC STUDY

The Montgomery County Council today voted against supporting a non-binding state legislative resolution to restart the draft environmental impact study (DEIS) for the Inter County Connector highway.

"No one is more familiar with the details of the ICC than the members of the Montgomery County Council," said Council Vice President Derick Berlage. "The state resolution is nothing but a diversion of our attention from real solutions.

"It's time to stop studying projects that are never going to be built and move ahead on what can be done now to help Montgomery families deal with traffic congestion. A new DEIS would not be finished until 2007 – five years of study as opposed to five years spent moving ahead on projects to make a difference now.

"According to the state of Maryland, restarting this study could delay our expansion of Norbeck Road Extended to four lanes – running east-west from I-95 all the way to Rockville. Such a move could also delay an important interchange at US 29 and Fairland/Musgrove Roads and could affect the interchange at Georgia and Norbeck. It could delay moving ahead on other initiatives that could really relieve congestion.

"This Council agrees with Governor Glendening and with our colleagues on the Prince George's County Council. The ICC would be very destructive to the environment – however it is built -- and would do precious little to relieve traffic congestion.

"That's why the federal Environmental Protection Agency, under Democratic and Republican presidents, have rejected the ICC. It has been – and continues to be – a billion-and-a-half-dollar boondoggle."

Voting for the Council measure were Councilmembers Berlage, Nancy Dacek, Marilyn Praisner, Phil Andrews, and Blair Ewing. Opposed were Councilmembers Howard Denis, Steve Silverman, and Michael Subin. Councilmember Isiah Leggett recused himself on the issue. # # #

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